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DIPLOMATIC

WASHINGTON (AP)--GEN. WALTER BEDELL SMITH TESTIFIED TODAY HE CANNOT RECALL THE STATE DEPARTMENT EVER TURNED DOWN A JOB APPLICANT "BECAUSE OF THE ACTION OF A RELATIVE."

A FORMER UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE, SMITH MADE THE REMARK IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM CHAIRMAN HARDY (D., VA.) OF THE HOUSE INTERNATIONAL OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE.

SMITH, WHILE SAYING HE KNEW OF NO SPECIAL CASE OF THAT SORT IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT, ADDED:

"I CAN VISUALIZE AN OTHERWISE PERFECT CANDIDATE FOR FOREIGN SERVICE WHO MIGHT BE MARRIED TO SOMEONE WHO CAME FROM A COUNTRY OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES.

"THAT WOULD BE NO STIGMA AT ALL, BUT YOU WOULDN'T TAKE HIM."

SMITH ALSO SAID HE HAD ENCOUNTERED THIS PROBLEM WHILE HE WAS DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY.

"I WAS UNABLE TO EMPLOY HIGHLY DESIRABLE PEOPLE BECAUSE OF RELATIVES BEHIND THE IRON CURTAIN," HE SAID. "IN THAT SERVICE, IT IS FELT DANGEROUS TO EMPLOY ANYONE WITH RELATIVES WHO MAY BE HELD AS HOSTAGE."

UPON THE COMPLETION OF SMITH'S TESTIMONY TODAY HARDY ADJOURNED THE CURRENT SERIES OF HEARINGS ON "EFFICIENCY" AND "MORALE" IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT.

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